



Railways And Tourism



RAIL TOURISM IN INDIA

India, the seventh largest country of the world is known for its varied and rich cultural and historical heritage around the globe. The huge and varied geography of the country is unique in itself and gives a chance not only to the international tourists but also to the domestic tourists to explore the true beauty of the country.

It is rightly said that if one wants to see the real India, one must explore the country by rail. The Indian Railways serves as the true kaleidoscope to witness the lives, culture, philosophy, religion and lifestyle of Indian people. The Indian Railways with a network of 66,687 kilometres, 7,349 stations and running around 22,525 trains offers tourists one of the most convenient and popular modes of transport for travelling in India. The Indian Railways helps one to explore the length and breadth of India with its lively markets, crowded places, geographical variations, cuisines, dress styles, languages and so many other facets of India. From the Great Indian Plains, the Thar Desert, the Deccan Plateau, the coastal plains to the North Eastern states, a train tour of India provides the real glimpse of the Indian culture and lifestyle.

Luxury Tourist Trains

Maharajas' Express – Worlds' Leading Luxury Train

Maharajas' Express luxury train is owned and operated by Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Ltd., a Govt. of India Enterprise under Ministry of Railways. Maharajas' Express is the flagship luxury train of IRCTC and is the newest luxury train in the country. The train which commenced operations in 2010 has been a frontrunner and is known for its enriching journey experiences coupled with exquisite facilities onboard.



The 23 carriage long train houses four different types of accommodation viz. Deluxe Cabin, Junior Suite, Suite and the Presidential Suite named after various precious gem stones. All cabins come with ensuite bathrooms with running hot and cold water supply. The Deluxe Cabins and Junior Suites have a WC and Shower Chamber. The Suites have a bathroom with a WC and Bathtub. The Presidential Suite has two bathrooms one with a WC and Shower Chamber and the other with a WC and Bathtub. The Presidential Suite, which spans one full carriage, has a living area with two bedrooms both having attached bathrooms. The Presidential Suite has been given a Lotus theme which is reflected in the hand painted ceilings, wall tiles of bathrooms, drapery and paintings.

The train has two restaurants having seating capacity of 42 each named Rang Mahal and Mayur Mahal serving a range of international and Indian delicacies. In addition to the restaurants, there are 02 Bar cum Lounges in the train. The Rajah Club and The Safari Bar serve a mix of House Pours and other international brands. The House Pours are included in the package and select international wines and spirits are on sale.

The train offers seven journey options covering the various princely and culturally rich states of the country:

- **Indian Splendour** (6 Nights/7 Days) starting in Delhi covering Agra, Ranthambore, Jaipur, Bikaner, Jodhpur, Udaipur and ending in Mumbai.
- **Heritage of India** (6 Nights/7 Days) starting in Mumbai covering Udaipur, Jodhpur, Bikaner, Jaipur, Ranthambore, Fatehpur Sikri, Agra and ending in Delhi.
- **Indian Panorama** (6 Nights/7 Days) starting in Delhi covering Jaipur, Fatehpur Sikri, Ranthambore, Agra, Orchha, Khajuraho, Varanasi and ending in Delhi.
- **Gems of India/Treasures of India** (3 Nights/4 Days) starting in Delhi covering Agra, Ranthambore and Jaipur.

Owing to its exquisite services, the train has been voted as the **World's Leading Luxury Train** by **World Travel Awards** for six years in a row since 2012.

Website: www.the-maharajas.com

Palace on Wheels

The Palace on Wheels is a luxury tourist train being operated by Indian Railways in association with Rajasthan Tourism Development Corporation. The train comprises of 14 fully air-conditioned saloons with rich décor that evoke the age of Rajput chivalry and are named after former Rajputana states such as Kota, Jaipur, Udaipur, Jaisalmer, Jodhpur, Bikaner, Alwar, Sirohi, Kishangarh, Bundi, Dungarpur, Bharatpur, Jhalawar and Dholpur. The train also has two fine dining restaurants, a well stocked bar and a lounge car for relaxation.

Itinerary

Delhi-Jaipur-Sawai Madhopur-Chittaurgarh-Udaipur-Jaisalmer-Jodhpur-Bharatpur-Agra-Delhi

Website: www.rtdc.in





Railways And Tourism



Golden Chariot

The land once ridden by formidable armies is now traversed by the world's unique luxury train. The Golden Chariot beckons you to discover worlds that are enriched with history and culture. Recline and relax as the magnificent scenery unfolds outside your window with luxury on the inside, thus far reserved for royalty. The Golden Chariot presents a fine balance between a glorious yesterday and an omnipresent tomorrow in the magical land Karnataka, Goa, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Puducherry. It is being operated by Indian Railways in association with Karnataka State Tourism Development Corporation. The fully air-conditioned train comprising of 11 passenger saloons, 2 restaurant coaches, 1 spa and gym car and 1 bar cum lounge car began operation in the year 2008 covering the states of Karnataka, Goa, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Puducherry.

Itineraries

1. **Pride of South:** Bengaluru - Mysore-Hassan-Hospet-Badami-Goa-Bengaluru
2. **Southern Splendour:** Bengaluru-Chennai/Mahabalipuram-Puducherry-Tanjavur/Trichy-Madurai-Kanyakumari/Kovalam-Kocchuvelli-Aleppy-Kochi-Bengaluru.

Website: www.goldenchariot.org



Deccan Odyssey

The Deccan Odyssey is also a luxury tourist train being operated by Indian Railways in association with Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation. Experience the finest and the best of train journeys of the world. The Deccan Odyssey is more than a mere luxury train cruise. Alavishly decorated trains that transports its guests on an unforgettable sojourn on different itineraries covering diggerent parts of the country. The Deccan Odyssey offers accommodation in 40 deluxe cabins in 10 coaches. It also has 4 presidential suites in 2 cars, 1 Conference car with business center, 2 restaurants, a well-stocked bar and a spa with steam, massage, a mini gym and a parlor. Other facilities include channel music, intercom, CD/MP3 player, wall-to-wall carpeting, money exchange / credit card facility, safety & security arrangements, shelth spa, bar, conference equipments.

Itineraries

1. Mumbai-Nashik-Aurangabad-Jalgaon/Pachora-Kolhapur

Karmali/Madgaon-Sawantwadi-Mumbai

2. Mumbai-Vishwamitri-Palitana-Veraval-Viramgam-Patan-Nashik-Mumbai
3. Mumbai-Vishwamitri-Udaipur-Jodhpur-Sawai Madhopur-Agra-Jaipur-Delhi
4. Delhi-Sawai Madhopur-Agra-Jaipur-Udaipur-Vadodara-Aurangabad-Mumbai
5. Mumbai-Bijapur-Badami-Hospet/Hampi-Hyderabad-Aurangabad-Jalgaon/Pachora-Mumbai
6. Mumbai-Aurangabad-Ramtek-Varora-Jalgaon/Pachora-Nashik-Mumbai
7. Mumbai-Udaipur-Jaipur-Delhi-Fatehpur Sikri-Agra-Varanasi-Siliguri.
8. Siliguri-Varanasi-Agra-Jaipur-Ranthambore-Udaipur-Vadodara-Mumbai.
9. Mumbai-Hospet-Mysuru-Madurai-Tanjavur-Mahabalipuram-Hyderabad-Mumbai.
10. Mumbdhopur-Jodhpai-Goa-Ooty-Kochi-Trivandrum-Kanyakumari-Madurai-Pondicherry-Chennai.
11. Delhi-Agra-Jaipur-Sawai Maur-Jaisalmer-Udaipur-Mumbai.

Website: www.maharashtratourism.gov.in

Hill Railways

Darjeeling Himalayan Railway

The Darjeeling Himalayan Railway (DHR), given the nickname "the Toy Train," is a 610-millimeter (2 ft) narrow-gauge railway that runs 88 kilometers (55 mi) between Siliguri and Darjeeling. Darjeeling is a major summer hill station and the centre of a flourishing tea-growing district located in West Bengal. More than a century old and one of the most well-known railways in the world, it was accorded the status of World Heritage site by UNESCO in 1999. The experience of travelling on this engineering marvel is unforgettable. A glimpse



of magnificent Kanchenjunga mountain range, on a clear day, enthral the visitor. The DHR offers special Joy Rides between Darjeeling and Ghum, full train on charter and Jungle Safari during the tourist season.

Uttar Pradesh Tourism

TAG-19



Railways And Tourism



Nilgiri Mountain Railway

The Nilgiri Mountain Railway is a 46 kilometers (29 mi) long metre gauge, single-line railroad which connects the town of Mettupalayam with the hill station of Udagamandalam (Ootacamund). The route is located within the state of Tamil Nadu and travels through the Nilgiri Hills, which are popularly known as the Blue Mountains of Southern India. The line contains 208 curves, 16 tunnels, and 250 bridges, causing the uphill journey along the route to take about 290 minutes (4.8 hours), while the downhill journey takes 215 minutes (3.6 hours). The Nilgiri Mountain Railway was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in July 2005.

Kalka Shimla Railway

The Kalka–Shimla Railway runs between Kalka and Shimla. The railroad is a 95.66 kilometers (59.44 mi) long, 2 ft 6 in (762 mm) narrow-gauge line. Shimla is the modern capital of Himachal Pradesh and is located at an elevation of 2,205 meters (7,234 ft) in the foothills of the Himalayas. The railway line was constructed by the Delhi–Ambala–Kalka Railway Company, beginning in 1898



in the Siwalik Hills, and was completed in 1903. The Kalka–Shimla Railway has 103 tunnels and 864 bridges. The Kalka–Shimla Railway joined the Nilgiri and Darjeeling lines as a World Heritage Site in 2008.

Kangra Valley Railway

The Kangra Valley Railway lies in the sub-Himalayan region of Kangra Valley and covers a distance of 164 km (101.9 mi) from Pathankot, Punjab to Jogindernagar in Himachal Pradesh, India. The Kangra valley railway comes under the Firozpur division of Northern Railway. The highest point on this line is at Ahju station at an elevation of 1,290 meters (4,230 ft). The railway line was planned in May 1926 and commissioned in 1929. The line has two tunnels, one of which is 250 ft (76 m) and the other 1,000 ft (300 m) in length. 6 trains run from Pathankot on daily basis of which two are upto Joginder Nagar and four are upto Baijnath Paprola.

Neral Matheran Railway

The Matheran Hill Railway covers a distance of 20 kilometers between Neral and Matheran in the Western Ghats. The construction of the Matheran Hill Railway began in 1904 and completed in 1907. The original tracks were built using 30 pound per yard rails but were later updated with heavier 42 pound per yard rails. Until the 1980s, the railway was closed during monsoon season due



to increased risk of landslides, but it is now kept open throughout the year. The line is administered by Central Railways.

Booking of Hill Charters

IRCTC on behalf of Indian Railways books full trains on charter basis in various hill railways on demand basis.

Name of Train	Contact
Darjeeling Himalayan Railway	IRCTC, Regional Office, Guwahati 4-D, Mandavi Apts, In front of Ravinder Bhawan, GNB Road, Ambari, Guwahati, Assam – 781001, Tel: 0361-2737123, E-mail: crmguwahati@irctc.com
Nilgiri Mountain Railway	IRCTC, Regional Office, Ernakulam Salih Arcade, 1 st Floor, Building No. 40 / 8194, Convent Road, Kochi – 682035. Tel Nos: 0484-2382991-92 E-mail: tourismkerala@irctc.com
Kalka Shimla Railway Kangra Valley Railway,	IRCTC, Regional Office, Chandigarh SCO-80-81-82, Sector – 34A, Chandigarh – 160034, Tel: 0172-4645795, E-mail: rocdg@irctc.com
Neral Matheran Railway	IRCTC, West Zone Office, Mumbai , 2 nd Floor, New Administrative Bldg, Central Railway, CST, Mumbai - 400001 Ph: 022-22644379, Email:tourismwz@irctc.com
Website	www.irctctourism.com

Vistadome Coach (Glass Top Coaches):

In 2017, Indian Railways introduced indigenously designed glass top coaches





Railways And Tourism



with wider windows for boosting tourism. The features of Glass Top Coaches are:

- Electrically controlled opalescence
- 360 degree rotatable push back ergonomically designed chairs
- Automatic sliding doors
- Multiple television screens
- Wide side doors for Divyangs
- GPS based info system

The first such coach was introduced on 16.04.2017 in 58501/02 Vishakapatnam-Kirandul passenger between Vishakapatnam and Araku. Second Vistadome was attached on 18.09.2017 in Mumbai-Goa route in Jan Shatabdi between Dadar and Madgaon. Third Vistadome is ready for launch in DMU in Jammu and Kashmir and will be operated tri-Weekly between Badgam and Banihal on train number 04650/04649 on Wednesday, Friday and Sunday and between Baramulla and Srinagar on train number 04660/04659 Monday, Thursday and Saturday.

The tariff shall be equivalent to that of Executive Class in Shatabdi Express, without catering charges. Reservation charges, GST and any other charges shall be levied in addition to the basic fare. There shall be no concession and all passengers shall be charged at full fare. The minimum chargeable distance shall be 50 Km. Catering shall be optional and may be provided by IRCTC to the level of Executive Class in Shatabdi, on payment basis.

Bharat Darshan/ Aastha Circuit Tourist Trains:

Bharat Darshan/ Aastha Circuit, one of the most popular tourism products, are tourist trains for the budget segment tourists. These Trains covers major pilgrim and tourist destinations of India, on different itinerary. This product is attractively priced at Rs. 900/- per day per person + GST for non- AC sleeper class passenger and Rs.1100/Per day per person +GST for AC Sleeper Class. The price is inclusive of rail & road travel, all meals, sightseeing and accommodation. All tourists are also insured for accidental claim upto a sum assured of 4 lakhs. For further details and booking of Bharat Darshan/ Aastha Circuit Tourist Trains kindly visit our tourism portal "www.irtctourism.com" or visit nearest Tourism Facilitation Centres of IRCTC.



Buddhist Circuit Special Train

Started in the year 2007, the Buddhist Circuit Special Train operated by IRCTC completed 11 years of operation. This fully air-conditioned train runs on a 7 Night /8 Days itinerary covering all major Buddhist Pilgrim locations in India and Lumbini in Nepal. The major destinations covered follow the life of Lord Gautam Buddha. The itinerary covers destinations like Bodhgaya, Rajgir, Nalanda, Varanasi, Sarnath, Kushinagar, Lumbini (Nepal), Sravasti and Agra.

Railways have recently introduced a swanky new air-conditioned LHB rake for



the tourist train with enhanced facilities such as sleeper cars with personal sitting galler, 2 aesthetically designed restaurant cars which has been very well received by the tourist. The details and online booking facility of the train is available at IRCTC Buddhist microsite "www.irtctbuddhisttrain.com".

Majestic Rajasthan Tourist Train



Uttar Pradesh Tourism

TAG-19



Railways And Tourism



IRCTC has introduced a new air-conditioned tourist train for promoting the various tourist destinations of the princely state of Rajasthan along with the visit to Agra in one of the itineraries. The train tour package will be all inclusive covering all elements of train journey, on-board and off-board meals, all transfers, sightseeing, accommodation in hotels etc. The train has generated a positive feedback in the travel and tourism fraternity. The details and online booking facility of the train is available at IRCTC's tourism portal "www.majestictrains.com".

Rail Tour Packages:

IRCTC under Ministry of Railways offers Rail Tour Packages with confirmed onward and return journey rail tickets apart from other elements of a package such as road transfers, accommodation, all meals and sightseeing at reasonable rates on the basis of itinerary. Rail tour packages are specially designed on the basis of demand of customers as well as popularity of destination like Shirdi, Vaishno Devi, Tirupati, Darjeeling, Chennai, Rameshwaram, Gangtok, Ooty, Goa, Puri, Kerala, etc. from various parts of India. The details and booking of these packages are available at tourism website "www.irctctourism.com" or visit nearest Tourism Facilitation Centres of IRCTC.

Travel & Tourism Portal:

Tourism portal "www.irctctourism.com" is a "One Stop Travel Shop" for all travel requirements of every tourists. The portal has won the "National Tourism Award" in the year 2008, "Website of the Year" for consecutive three years i.e. 2014, 2015 & 2016 by "Leisure & Travel" by MatrixLab and "Indian e-retail award" for consecutive three years from 2015 to 2017 by Franchise India. The portal offers on-line booking of Tourist Trains, Air tickets, Tour packages be it through rail, air or land, Hotel and Cabs. **Visit www.irctctourism.com** for booking of tourism products and services online.

Online Booking Of Charter Trains and coaches:

Customers can now book a charter train or coach in IRCTC's webpage www.ftr.irctc.co.in. The user friendly module includes options like viewing the list of trains on which chartered coach can be attached, search for availability of trains between preferred destinations without registration, placing a request for charter train or coach online, making online payment of deposit, provision to print the dossier which contains all mandatory documents to be carried while travelling, etc. While registration is not mandatory for searching availability, PAN Card verified user creation is required for placing a request for chartering. By introduction of this online module, now users can book charter trains/coaches from any part of the country. **For bookings, E-mail charter@irctc.com or visit www.ftr.irctc.co.in.**

Tourism Facilitation Centres

IRCTC has set up Tourism Facilitation Centres in and around various railway stations across the country that are serving as 'One Stop Shop' to assist railway passengers in availing various tourism products and services. Besides, providing detailed information about various rail and non-rail tourism products and services, these facilitation centres book tour packages, airline tickets as well as manage the departures of passengers availing the train tour packages.





Railways And Tourism



S.No.	Name	Address And Contact Numbers
1	New Delhi	Near Cloakroom, Opp to Executive Lounge, Platform No.16, New Delhi Railway Station, Ajmeri Gate, New Delhi – 110002, Tel. No. - +011-23213197, +91 9717648888, 9717641764
2	Mumbai	Main Line Station, Mumbai Central Railway Station,, Mumbai, Maharashtra – 400008 Tel. No. - +91-8433926649
3	Chennai	Gate No.3, Main Entrance, (Opposite to SMR Room), Chennai Central Railway Station, Park Town, Chennai – 3, Tamil Nadu, Tel No. 9003140681, 044-25332548
4	Kolkata	Howrah Railway station (Howrah Old Complex), Near to Railway Enquiry & Opp to Platform no 10, Howrah-711101, Tel. No. - +91- 9002040089/142
5	Agra	Platform No.1, Agra Cantt. Railway Station, AGRA-282003, Landline No.:- 0562-2420111. Tel No. - 9794863639/ 9794863641.
6	Puri	Opposite to second class waiting Hall, Besides RPF post, Puri Railway station concourse, Odisha Tel. No. –06752-223005, +91-9777440061
7	Gaya	Platform No. 1, Near to SBIATM, Opposite Bihar Tourism Office, Gaya, Bihar, Tel. No. - +91- 9771440025 /10
8	Ahmedabad	Platform No.1, Near Gate No.1 & Gujarat Tourism Office, Musafirkhana, Ahmedabad-380002 Tel. No. - + 7922160576
9	Bengaluru	Concourse area, Main Entrance Bengaluru City Railway Station, Bangalore – 560025, Karnataka Tel. No. 080 - 22960014, +919741429437, E-mail id:- tificsb@irctc.com
10	Tirupati	Platform No.1, Besides Main Entrance, Tirupati Railway Station, Andhra Pradesh, Tel. No. – 9701360612, 0877-2222010 E-mailid:- Sukumar.Bandala@irctc.com; pavan.kumar@irctc.com
11	Mysuru	Near General Booking Office, Mysuru Junction, Karnataka Tel. No. +91 9741421486, 0821 – 2426001E-mail id:- tificmys@irctc.com
12	Thiruvananthapuram	Near Booking Office, 2nd Entry, Trivandrum Central Railway Station, Powerhouse Road, Thiruvananthapuram – 695036, Kerala. Phone: +91 471 2462250; 9567863245, E-mail: tourism@irctc.com
13	Kozhikode	Platform No. 1, Near Food Plaza, Kozhikode Railway Station, Kozhikode- 673001, Kerala, Tel No. + 91 495 2701510; 9746743047, E- mail: tificlt@irctc.com
14	Madurai	First floor, New concourse, Madurai Railway junction-625001,Karnataka, Tel. No. 0452-2345757, +919003140714
15	Hubli	IRCTC area office, Near booking office, Hubli Railway Station, Hubli-580023, Tel No. – 9741421088
16	Vijayawada	Platform No.1, Besides Main Entrance, Vijayawada Railway Station, Andhra Pradesh, Tel. No. – 0866-2572280, 8374000783/ 9701360634/ 675, E-mail id:- ch.balaji@irctc.com
17	Secunderabad	Platform No.10, Besides SBI Credit Card Counter, Secunderabad Railway Station, Telangana, Tel. No. - 040-27800580, 9701360690
18		Tourism Plaza (Paryatak Bhavan, Hyderabad), TIFC, GF-14, Ground Floor, Tourism Plaza, Greenlands, Begumpet, Hyderabad-500016, Tel. No. - +91-9701360698, 040-23400606
19	Pune	IRCTC Regional office, 1st Floor, Retiring Room No 1, Above Station Manager, Office, Pune Railway Station, Pune, Maharashtra – 411001 Tel. No. - +91-9503057202
20	Indore	Platform No. 1, Opp PRO office, Indore Railway Station, Indore, Madhya Pradesh – 452001, Tel. No. - +91-9630098913
21	Jabalpur	Near Railway Retiring Room, Platform No 1, Jabalpur Railway Station, Madhya Pradesh – 482001, Tel. No. - +91-7898970238, 0761-4010702
22	Vishakhapatnam	Visakhapatnam Railway Station, Platform No.1, Besides APTDC Counter, Visakhapatnam-530004, Contact: 9078089263/ 9701360695 E-mail id:- cknath@irctc.com; vy.prasad@irctc.com